Refreshed in Christ: a 30 day devotional

Adam Houge

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Introduction

The Lord's voice comes as still and small. God always speaks to us, but our ever-busy minds keep us from hearing Him. Stay your mind on His presence and consider His words.

Often God has spoken to me to comfort and to rebuke me. Over time, I have reflected on His words and thoughts about me. Through His voice I have been forever changed, and I do believe that His words will transform anyone who is humble enough to listen to them. Over the years I have attuned my ear to His whispers. After experiencing the depths and warmth of His embrace, I considered that others could be transformed by the words that He has spoken into my life.

This book is a reflection of His words and thoughts regarding my own personal journey. I believe that, as they have changed me, they have the power to transform your life and your relationship with Him as well. These pages are a tender reflection of His heart toward you. While they are written as if the Lord were speaking, this book is by no means intended to take the place of God. While these are the messages that He has laid on my heart, nothing can replace the Sovereignty of His Scripture or the magnitude of His voice in your own life. Listen carefully for the Holy Spirit and let Him administer His own lesson to you.

Over the next thirty days, examine your own heart as you consider His heart toward you. Meditate on the scriptures that follow and take the time to be renewed in Him and changed by His love.

Day One

I Want More of You

I've been thinking about you today, as I always do, and I was considering our relationship. I have to be honest. I want more of you. I can't get enough of you. I love you! Please be more committed to Me today. Don't you want more of Me?

I know that life has its ups and downs and that there are hundreds of things bombarding you that distract you from Me. But I just want a little more of your attention today. Am I not worth it?

I considered you to be worth everything. I loved you so much that I pursued you with My life. I gave My life to have you as Mine. Will you not render your life to Me? Remember that I am Lord. So let Me be your Lord. What harm will I bring you? Will I not lead you to peace?

While others will harm you, and life may drag you down, I will always be a source of comfort to you. I will calm your storms and bring you peace again. Only rest in My arms today and dedicate yourself wholeheartedly to Me.

Scripture for Thought

"He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." Psalm 91:1

"...that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God..." Colossians 1:9–10

Day Two

Keep Pure

This is always a hard topic to talk about, but My love compels Me to do it. It's about your sin. No one likes hearing about his or her shortcomings, but I want to make a better person out of you. I can't do this unless you call your sin for what it is and hate it. No matter how little it is, it offends Me.

I care about you. But I wasn't crucified so that you could continue in the things I want to eradicate. Please examine your heart today. Consider the ways in which you may have offended Me, even in the smallest way. Search your heart, then change it. I'm not the one who needs to change in this relationship. I never did anything wrong! Please consider your own heart and be zealous to love Me as I have been zealous to love you. Be pure for Me and practice My love toward all those around you.

Scripture for Thought

"Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men..." 2 Corinthians 5:9–11

Day Three

Meditate on Me

I was watching you sleep last night and considering your dreams, and in the end I found Myself dreaming about you—about how much I love you and how I wish I could hold you now. But first you need to embrace Me. Ask for the comfort of My Holy Spirit today, and I will send Him. Then, as I embrace you through My Spirit, will you not hold Me back?

Remember Me today and meditate on Me. Your mind wanders often as you focus on the necessities of the day. But I call you to pray to Me without ceasing. Talk to Me! The sound of your voice touches Me. Doesn't Mine touch you? Will you listen to Me today? My Spirit is talking to you constantly, but are you listening?

Listen to My voice today and let Me direct you. Am I not your master? Then let Me decide the paths you should take in life. Allow Me sovereignty over every minute of the day. Let your decisions be established by My governance. Seek Me in prayer before you commit to your plans. Don't you want to know My opinion about them? Will you obey My opinion when I communicate it to you?

I have loved you beyond this life. I rejected My heart and My desire to live in order to hold you and call you Mine. Will you reject your own heart, that Mine can rule over you today? Will you carry this concept and apply it for the rest of your life? Do this so I can draw nearer to you. Remember that I have already extended My hand to you—so if you want Me to draw nearer to you, you need to draw nearer to Me and take My hand.

Scripture for Thought

"Then He said to them all, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?'" Luke 9:23–25

"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...." James 4:8

"A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps." Proverbs 16:9

"There are many plans in a man's heart, nevertheless the Lord's counsel—that will stand." Proverbs 19:21

"The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations." Psalm 33:11

Day Four

Become Love

Love is the essence of who I am. I have told you to love others around you, but I want to challenge you today. Look carefully at each person's life and open your eyes to all of his or her needs. How could you be expressing My love toward them? Will you consider this and act accordingly? Maybe opportunity will not afford itself today, but if you continue in this mindset every day, I will show you the people who truly need My touch.

I want to touch your life, but I also want to touch the lives of others. Will you render yourself to Me and be My tool to love them? What I require of you isn't hard. It's merely submission to My guiding hand and My beating heart. If you need My words of comfort, then be sensitive to My Spirit and let Me speak through you. Let Me comfort and rejuvenate you in My love.

As you seek to touch another's life, you'll find My own touch in your life through the actions you take. Wear My heart on your sleeve. Let your heart beat at the pace of My love, and so be the example of Me in all that you say and do.

Scripture for Thought

"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Colossians 3:17

Day Five

Meditate My Love

My child, sit close by My side and listen to the words of your Father. Let Me be the center of who you are and what you do. Don't be caught up in the idleness of this life. Don't be engrossed in the entertainment and the joy of the flesh that this world brings. Today consider Me and My love for you. Then sit in My love and abide in My presence. Meditate on My presence and keep a steady eye fixed on Me.

I wish you did this more often. How incredible it would be! How amazing the transformation it would make in your life if only you fixed your gaze on Me every moment of the day! As with Peter walking on the water, I will be your strength to do the impossible. I will be your comfort in times of trouble. I will calm your worst storms. And while those storms rage, I will hold you and embrace you.

So focus on me and how I'm holding you. A storm of life can distract you from Me and make you forget how I'm cherishing you through the suffering. Remember My love and be captivated by it. Embrace Me and hold onto Me. I am your rock in a troubled sea. I will hold you above the waves and keep your life steady.

Only stay your eye on Me and never let your gaze waver. Don't be distracted by the thunder as the wind blows. Rather, meditate on Me, and I will bring you peace. From the deepest part of Me to the deepest part of you, I will calm your storm and set you free.

In everything you do today, try to meditate on Me through prayer and worship. Let Me consume your thoughts, and watch how I transform your mind. But don't just pray at Me, dumping your desires on Me only to walk away. I love you! Won't you let Me express it? So take the time to listen for My replies.

Pray according to My heart and have a conversation with My Spirit as you pray. Do the same when you worship Me and sing about Me. Share your heart with Me. Connect with Me. Communicate your love and gratitude for all I do to love you. Let Me be caught up in your kindly praises of Me as I lift you up in My Holy Spirit.

Let's spend more time together in these ways. Your prayers and your worship aren't about you and how you try to honor Me. Rather, they're about My love for you and how we communicate that love to one another as you seek Me.

Let Me love you today and draw near to you. Sit close by My side as you continue your day. Don't leave My presence after this devotion. Steady your eye on Me and keep praying and worshipping Me. Try to accomplish the laborious task of undying prayer. Whether you're at work, driving your car, standing in the shower, or sitting in a waiting room, be consumed with My Spirit. Meditate on My presence and don't let your prayer stop. I know you will get distracted, but as soon as you realize it, return your thoughts and prayers to Me.

Worship Me and seek Me. I will lay on your heart what you should do to draw near to Me. Only be sensitive to the voice of My Holy Spirit so I can communicate this to you.

Scripture for Thought

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." Isaiah 9:6–7

"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." Romans 8:26

"Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving..." Colossians 4:2

Day Six

Have Peace Through Faith

Trust, along with love, is the cornerstone of every relationship. Without trust, no relationship could prosper. This is why I call you to have faith in Me. Increasing your reliance on Me will naturally enhance our relationship.

Knowing this, I challenge you to relinquish all control to Me. Won't My hands safely guide you? Won't I protect you and be a shield to you? If you believe I will govern you rightly, then surrender your fear to Me as well. Though trials may arise and give the false appearance of impending doom, your future is always safe and secure in My hands.

Do you honestly believe this? If so, then I challenge you to grow in your faith. Rely on Me in everything and watch Me take control. When the storms of life arise, the seas may toss the vessel of your life. You may question where I am in the midst of it all, but do not let your fears lead you to doubt. Surrender your fear to Me. I am in the boat with you, resting on the lower deck. In My due and proper time, Beloved, I will arise from My quarters and step upon the bow. Then you shall see My glory as I command your storm to cease.

So when the waters rise, do not fear, My child. Be still and have peace through faith. Be the image of what I will create through your trial. For in My due time, I will calm your storms and effect an unsurpassed peace on the face of the ocean. No longer will you reel to and fro, but My arms shall hold you steady. Until then, rest in My embrace. Let Me hold your heart steadfastly as the trials of life abound.

If you keep the faith and settle your heart in My peace, the unbelieving world shall see it and be greatly perplexed. When they ask you the reason for your hope, this is an opportunity I have provided for you to preach My love and the power of My glory to them. Take the time to witness to these people, that they may be My children as you are.

Scripture for Thought

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5–6

Day Seven

Listen to the Silence

Listen carefully My child. What do you hear? The whistling of the wind? When you cannot feel My presence nor hear My voice, there is a good reason. Listen to the silence, for it speaks to you. I am telling you to draw near to Me. I know you have opened every cabinet, searched every drawer, and overturned every stone, but with all of your searching, you can't find Me in the midst of your circumstances.

You have not heard Me, but now I will speak. Listen carefully, My child, as I search out your heart. Have you erred in any way? Examine your heart yourself. Perhaps I was yelling to you to turn back. But now you have strayed so far from My voice that you hear Me no longer. If this is so, then turn around on your heels, My Beloved, and come back to Me. I will receive you into My arms—only, repent first.

Have you searched your heart and found that not a thing was lacking? If you haven't erred, then My silence is still speaking. Seek Me, Beloved, and do not stop until you hear Me again. For you are about to enter a crossroads of life, whether great or small, and I would like to provide you with the direction you should take. But if you embark on this journey without Me, you can be sure that I will not speak until you return to Me.

There is yet one more time when the silence may come. When you have suffered a horrible trial and your heart is sick for Me, I am silent because I want you to seek Me. Come and pursue My comfort. Don't grieve away from Me but let Me love you through your hurt. Surrender your hurt to Me and let Me hold you now. I will be your comfort.

Don't break My heart. I don't think I could bear it if you grieved in a dark corner without Me. I want to hold you. I want to show you how loved you are through your circumstances. Simply come to Me and sit with Me. Do not let your heart abandon Me as you sit in sorrow but, rather, rest your head upon My shoulder, and I will give you rest. I will wipe every tear from your eye and show you how precious you are to Me.

Scripture for Thought

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God." Romans 8:14

"'For I have satiated the weary soul, and I have replenished every sorrowful soul.'" Jeremiah 31:25

"Unless the Lord had been my help, my soul would soon have settled in silence." Psalm 94:17

Day Eight

In the Place of My Peace

I am coming on the clouds, and I will swiftly reward you. Look up and see, for My Day will draw near. First, the world shall be overturned, and darkness will precede the light. But when the hour is darkest, lift up your head and have hope, My Beloved! For here comes your Savior, riding on the winds of heaven!

No, My child, I cannot leave you without hope. Even in the darkest hours of your trials, I am there. Remember that, just before the break of dawn, the night is darkest. Yes, twilight always precedes the rising of the sun. Even so, your trials shall have their moment. But I tell you the truth: Their days are numbered. Like a flood, My love shall go forth swiftly and overtake you. Like the raging of the sea, like a tsunami that cannot be stopped, so I shall rush in and overwhelm you with My saving power.

Only have faith in Me and seek My comfort as you wait. Then, when the moments become darkest, remember that soon My light shall erupt forth and I will come in all My glory to save you. Where I am, there you will be also—in the place of My peace, forever.

Scripture for Thought

"I was watching in the night visions, and behold, one like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed." Daniel 7:13–14

Day Nine

Have You Considered My Heart Today?

In the ever-growing busy-ness of your life, remember to take the time to rest in Me. It's easy for you to be caught up in the tasks and entertainment of the day, but remember Me. Am I not worth your attention? My eye is always steadily fixed on you. I watch your comings and goings. I see your joys, and I count your tears. You mean everything to Me!

Now let Me mean everything to you. Focus hard on My presence and listen to My Spirit. I will guide you in the paths of love and justify you through My leading. Let faith be your natural response to My voice. When I speak, trust in Me. Do you not remember that the just shall live by faith? So live by My word and obey My voice, and I will justify you in everything. How are you sinning if your heart is set on obedience?

Do not be tempted to follow your own heart. Don't lean on your own understanding. Let your faith be with blindness, and My word shall be your eyes. Have you not known that My word is a lamp to your feet? My voice guides your path, and I teach you the way you should go daily. My Spirit will interpret My word to you and open your understanding of the Scriptures. So submit to Him always, and He will lead you along the best paths.

But your own heart may be tempted to ignore the subtle whispers of My Spirit. The enemy would hate to see you walk in true righteousness. So forbid your heart to disobey Me. Never brush off My Spirit's voice, but listen intently. When I am hard to hear, I am calling you to the secret place.

Be still, My child, and listen to the words of your Father. Walk in love and integrity and obey My Spirit. Consider My words well and enact them. If I cannot be heard, then shut out the noise around you. Come and be still at My feet, and I will communicate My heart to you.

Have you ever considered the nature of a whisper? It is still and small and quiet, that two people may be intimate in their conversation. Truly, the best words are said softly, and this is how I express My love and My will to you.

So humbly submit and turn to Me. Sit forward on your seat and incline your ear. To hear Me, you will need to draw close to Me. And that is My true secret, the real reason why I whisper—to draw you near to Me. Because I long for your nearness, I whisper. When you draw your ear near to My lips, My words will be a kiss on your ear, producing life forevermore.

I say nothing unless it is meaningful. Never are My words vain. Pay attention to every one of them, no matter how simple or quiet. Take them to heart and practice them if you truly love Me. Every word I speak is spoken with love, integrity, and holiness. Yes, My voice shall make you whole and sound, if you obey My words.

But how can you obey if you allow yourself to be distracted from Me? Yes, continue tending to the necessary matters of the day, but don't forget to consider My heart. Seek Me throughout the day continually. I will strengthen you to continue to walk in My Spirit and to do the needful things of the day while meditating on Me. If you submit to Me, you will not err. Though it may seem hard at times, I will help you abide.

Do not cease to approach Me. I want you near to Me; you are My child after all! So remember My love and sit near My side. Let Me touch you with My Spirit. I will wrap My love around you as if it were a soft blanket. I will warm your heart, that you can walk in the compassion of My ways. And while I hold your heart, will you consider Mine today? Will you love Me and seek Me as you ought?

Scripture for Thought

"'Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel." Exodus 19:5–6

Day Ten

Be Circumspect

Have I not said that My enemy is crafty? Behold, he is slithering around you now! Consider My words, My child, and take them seriously. They will mean your life! That roaring lion is trying to consume you as he did Eve—with a subtle lie. My Spirit cannot endure it much longer.

Oh, how the children of men contort My truth! Beware, lest they lead you astray. I tell you the truth, there are times you have been led astray without realizing it. I see all things, and I know what men can craft. Their hands are the hands of demons as they lie about Me.

My image they twist, then tell you it is truth. They make a false image of Me and tell you to bow down to it. But even a false image of Me is an idol—a doctrine that I do not support. Consider My words and take them to heart, for it will save your life! I spoke My word into existence. By My lips I formed heaven and earth. Am I not God—the Lord your God, who has done all these things? I lifted up the mountain and lowered the valley. I commanded the seas to stop, and now they rage at the shore. I said, "Here you shall stop, and the land you shall no longer oppress!" and then the water receded and made dry ground appear. Then I thought of you, and I formed you from the dust. I kissed the face of man and breathed life into him.

Later, when My Spirit could bear their sin no longer, I commanded the waters to rise and washed the world clean. I set up My servant Noah to establish My ways in the new world. Since before time began, My word has established all things. I am God, and there is none like Me!

Yet men contort My words and make images that lie to you. They call you to believe their doctrines and say you shall have peace in practicing them. But I tell you the truth: No one shall have peace unless he or she obeys My word and submits to My Spirit. My words are always with truth, and I do not hide any of them from the upright.

My Beloved, hear the voice of your God and consider: How has My word transgressed? Do you understand My words? Do you perfectly know My doctrine? Seek truth as if your life depended on it, My child. Why? Because it does! Have I not said that I am the way, the truth, and the life? Have I not said that no one comes to the Father except through Me? Even as I am the truth, so no man shall come to the Father except through that one truth I have established.

To seek the truth is to seek Me, for I am the truth. Do you love Me? Then love perfect doctrine and be zealous for it. Haven't you read what My servant Jude wrote to you? He called you to contend earnestly for the faith. Now I tell you that the faith you seek is only found in My truth and is established through My word.

How, then, shall you find the truth? Through the voice of My Holy Spirit! Submit to Him and obey Him. Seek the truth from Him with all your heart. Be zealous and fervent for pure doctrine. I will lead you to it and make you know My perfect truth in this life.

Do you believe that? Can you believe that I am capable of making you know perfect truth while you yet live in your mortal body? I can do all things, and My words are power. They produce life and command all creation. But My words were only spoken one way. They only have one meaning, and I command you to know that meaning! You must know My truth. I give it to you because I love you.

I intend to establish you in eternal life. But men would only like you to become their disciples. Why? Because they are proud, and are greedy for the tithes. They have an outward appearance of holiness, and at first glance they are hard to see for what they truly are. They appear zealous for Me, and their words may make sense to you.

But not everything I said and do will make sense to you. If it did, then where would faith enter? I must speak what you do not know, or else I couldn't teach you. A teacher always speaks words of knowledge that you have never heard. These words do not make sense to you until the teacher finishes the lesson.

Even so, I will say some very difficult things that may be hard for you to accept. But this is why I call you to have faith. When you know I have spoken, obey Me even if it doesn't make sense. Trust My word and let it guide your path. My voice will lead you in the direction you should go. My Holy Spirit will be your eyes, and He shall carry you to My perfect truth. Believe My truth and practice My perfect doctrine, for when you know My truths, they shall set you free.

Scripture for Thought

"Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them." Hebrews 13:9

"Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you." 1 Timothy 4:16

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth..." John 16:13

Day Eleven

Be Fruitful and Multiply the Disciples

Long ago I gave a command to My creation to populate this world. I told the fish of the sea to overwhelm the ocean with teeming life. I commanded the birds to cover the face of the sky.

But have you not considered? When I left this world, I commanded My children to make disciples for Me. Even so, I command you now to be fruitful and multiply the disciples. Cover the face of this earth with My children. I will guide you in this process. My Spirit will give you the words to say, so be sensitive to My voice.

Look around you carefully. Consider the people I have placed in your life. Walk in My love toward them and preach My gospel to them. If any of them refuse My words, then be diligent to show them My love. If you cannot talk about My gospel, then walk in My gospel. Become the image of My light toward all men. Love on all of the people in your life and do not cease until they ask you what you have that differs from them. When they ask you your reason for being different, this is an opportunity I have afforded to you so that you will preach My love to them. Be diligent to speak at this time, that they can believe in Me. Seek the lost and save them with My words of truth. Show them My love, that their hearts would yearn for the difference I desire to create in them.

Be diligent in these matters and start preaching My truth and My love to the unsaved today.

Scripture for Thought

"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.'" Matthew 28:18–20

Day Twelve

Become Love

By My loving kindness, I drew you to repentance. I gently brought you to your knees, and your heart desired My goodness. My kindness has refreshed you time and time again. When this world broke your heart, by My kindness I made you rejoice. Your bitterness of heart I have turned into songs of praise.

But now I want you to go and do the same for others. Consider My love and how I've shown it to you. Then take that love and show it to your brethren in turn. Be diligent to care for their needs. If any have bitter hearts, give them exactly what they need to recover their feet. If you lift one up from brokenness to stand on his or her feet again, I tell you the truth: Their feet will dance for Me!

Do you not love Me? Then show My love to those I love. Be kind to them as I am kind. Though I command you to love your enemies, do not forsake your brethren. While they have Me to save them, I also gave them you. You are My tool, so go to work and love them. Be pliable in My hands. Have a willing heart for Me to use you. Wouldn't true love dictate that it is better to suffer a little to deliver someone from suffering much? Have I not proven it at Calvary?

While I suffered greatly on My cross, it was only for a moment. But hell, from which I saved you, is forever. My moment of suffering delivered you from an eternity of hurt. Go and do likewise through deeds of kindness. Haven't I called you to carry your cross in this life? I have not called you to throw away money foolishly until ruin overcomes you. I have called you to help the poor through wisdom. There are more hands than yours alone. If you cannot afford it, your combined efforts with others can.

Be a body in Me and establish love together. It is a true saying that many hands make light work. Even so, you can ease others' burdens and make their yokes easy by showing them My loving-kindness.

I want you to examine the people around you today. Do you see anyone in need of My touch? Pray to Me as to what I would have you do. I will guide you in this process and show you the works you must perform. I am God and see all things. I know what will bless their hearts more than you do. So seek Me and I will answer you. My Spirit will guide you to the most perfect thing. While you may think you know what to do already, I command you to lay all your intentions before Me first. That way, all your plans shall be established in Me, My love, My will, and My perfect wisdom.

Scripture for Thought

"In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." 1 John 4:10–11

"By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him." 1 John 3:16–19

Day Thirteen

Find Healing in My Arms

I watched your tears last night. I counted each of them as they fell, and every one of them mattered to Me. I know how you've been hurting. I'm here in the midst of it, loving you. I know it's hard to see the good I could create. But I don't ask you to see it; I ask you to believe it.

Even though there is nothing good about your circumstance, My heart can't bear watching you grieve. I will give you a smile again one day, I promise! I won't relent until you understand how loved you are by Me. Every circumstance of your life matters to Me. This one especially matters. When I watch you cry, it makes Me cry. I love you, and I can't help but weep with you. Please don't push Me away in your pain. Draw near to Me and remember My love for you. I'm here to help you and comfort you, not hurt you.

I don't bring harm upon you; I bring healing. Although there are times when I must break a seam to mend it stronger than it was before, this may not be the case for you. Yet every break you suffer, I will bring together for healing. I will heal your heart and bring you joy again. I am capable of this and will do it because I love you.

Every time a bone breaks, it heals stronger than it was before. Even so, I will heal your situation in such a way that you will be less likely to suffer this heartbreak again. Follow Me and let Me guide you down the paths of My comfort. You live in an evil world, and pain is the nature of this place. I don't desire your harm; I desire your healing. I allow evil to happen, but I intend to make it perfect one day. I don't desire that you suffer injury, but I promise I will use your pain to create good. Sometimes that may seem impossible, but the condition for a great miracle is impossibility, and I am capable of doing the impossible. Do you believe Me? I will prove it in My love.

The pain this world creates is a cruel reminder that this is not your home. My side is your home. As a bride belongs next to her husband, so you belong next to Me. Where I am, you should be also. When it is time, I will call your name and you will rise to My place to be with Me forever. As I created Eve from the rib of Adam, so I created you from the place next to My heart. From the place of My heart you came, and to the place of My heart you shall return.

I will bring your life to peace and will comfort you in My embrace. My hands are here to hold you and cherish you through your circumstances. Let Me love you now. Seek Me, that I can wrap My arms around you. Sit in My Spirit and pursue Me now. Be captivated by My embrace again. I will help you get through the hurt to see the light of healing again.

Scripture for Thought

"He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young." Isaiah 40:11

"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Revelation 21:4

Day Fourteen

Become My Gentleness

There are many times you have been harsh with Me. In your past, I dealt gently with you and didn't repay you for the sins you committed against Me. Instead I repaid you with love and set your sins against Me on My own shoulders—and died bearing them for you. I have always gently led you. I was only hard when I needed to be. But even when I am hard, My hands break you gently.

Consider the gentleness of My Spirit and be diligent to show the same to others. My gentle fruit should be on constant display through your words and your actions. How have you been gentle with those around you? How have you not been gentle?

Show My gentleness and watch it change the attitudes of those around you. This may take time, but like any good fruit, it takes a while to grow. Like a tomato, it may take a long time to ripen to maturity. But show a mature, gentle attitude first, and what you reap, you will sow.

I never said you would reap quickly. When you sow the seed of a fruit tree, it can take years before you taste its first fruit. It can take years longer for it to produce a prolific harvest. So be patient when expressing My heart. I am gentle through My patience. Have I not been patient with you?

Take My patience to heart, and if you love Me, you will love others. Be patient with them through My perfect love. Your patience should naturally bear the fruit of kindness and gentleness. If My Spirit is at work in you, then you shall act as I act and do as I do. So let your hands and your words be established in the gentleness of My love.

Scripture for Thought

"Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand." Philippians 4:5

Day Fifteen

Am I Not Enough?

Life would tempt you to consume yourself with other things. But do not be idle or forget My sovereignty. Am I not your Lord? Am I not enough? Do not burden yourself with the joys of this life. While I permit joy, there are many idle things that would seek to consume you. How do you spend more of your time—with the joys and entertainment of your heart or with Me? Dwell in My presence and be refueled by Me. Do not be like the world, which relieves stress through idle entertainment. Rest in Me, Beloved. Am I not enough?

Do not take time from your day to spend with Me. Rather, give Me your whole day, for it is Mine! I have paid the price for you, and every minute belongs to Me. So render Me the respect that is due to Me. Give Me your eyes and do not let them flirt with the things of this life. Let Me become your all and watch Me pour out a blessing such as you could never begin to imagine. I will give you an abundance of My wisdom and consume you in the fire of My Spirit. Dwell in Me, for many heavenly riches await you before My throne.

Scripture for Thought

"Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples." John 15:2–8

Day Sixteen

Am I Not Worth It?

Prepare yourself for Me and be sanctified for My use. Set yourself apart from this world. Come out from the people around you. Whoever you spend your time with, you will become like. Will you befriend those who hate Me and who refuse repentance and My Spirit? Will you cherish your worldly friends and family but refuse to share Me with them? Give them My words and the hands of My love. If they refuse these, then they have refused you as well.

Do you not remember when My own brothers, My own flesh and blood, rejected Me? They were the sons of Mary, who bore the body of My flesh. For they did not believe in Me, and they went to the feast without Me. But I went up in secret without them, only with My Father. Even as I kept in stride with My Father, so I command you to do as well.

Do not long for the world. If they refuse Me, then let them go and embrace your Lord. If you are not sharing My Gospel with them, then what are you doing? Glorify Me and cherish Me with your conduct. Abstain from idleness and seek Me always. Every minute is Mine, for I made time. Your days are numbered on this earth, and afterward you will come home to Me. Live your days with wisdom while redeeming the time. Life is short, so honor Me with it while you have it. I will judge you by the decisions you have made in this life, so put Me first in all things. Am I not worth it?

Scripture for Thought

"Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: 'I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.'

"Therefore 'Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.' 'I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.'" 2 Corinthians 6:14–18

Day Seventeen

Hunger for Me

Hunger for Me, and I will satisfy you. Thirst for My Spirit, and I will quench you. Desire Me, and I will transform you! Come and know Me more. Open the book of My instruction, and My Spirit will tutor you in the pages. Desire the word I have written.

My child, if you do not drink the milk, then you will starve. You may feel grown in Me, but compared to Me, Beloved, you're an infant. You're My baby and always will be. So drink the milk of the word and grow thereby.

Listen to My voice while you read the pages, in which I have much to teach you. I intend to change your life and give you a hope in Me.

I have many plans for you, but if you do not hunger for Me, I cannot lead you to them. I will not force My will on anyone. Your will is a gift from Me. Use it wisely to love Me and seek Me. Pursue My plans for you and walk in the most perfect path I have paved for your life. Do not let desire consume your journey. Your destiny does not lie in your own hands. So do not make your own plans for who you will become or what you will do. Do not leap ahead of Me but wait patiently for My guiding hand.

Though I may tell you in advance My plans for you and your life, do not jump to do them unless I have jumped first. Stay in step with Me, My child, and I will lead you in the way. For I know the most perfect path for you. All you need to do is lean on Me and wait patiently for the story of your life to unfold. Do not seek to turn the page, for only My authority can do so. In My time I will prepare you for the journey that lies ahead and carry you along the way.

Scripture for Thought

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled." Matthew 5:6

"as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby," 1 Peter 2:2

Day Eighteen

I Shall Establish a New Blessing

Behold, I create all things new. When heaven and earth were formed, was I not there? Did I not create these things, and haven't My hands formed them? Then, in the fullness of time, I wiped the world clean. I washed this world of iniquity with My watery wrath. But I saved the righteous Noah and His family, who walked with Me. My hand they held as I carried them in faith.

You, also, be led by Me as I establish a new hope in you. For the former things I have made in your life must be wiped away to establish the newness of My blessing. With every new blessing I create, you must relinquish an old one.

Even as I have established a different earth from the first, having parted the land and the seas, so I shall establish a new blessing in your life. Remember that, in the fullness of time, I will wipe away this current world in My fiery wrath, melting the material elements that are seen. But you, My child, I will carry safely on My chest. As a father carries his young, so I shall carry you. Rest your head upon My shoulder and let Daddy carry you to a new place. For the temporary shall be wiped away, and a far greater blessing shall be given to you.

Scripture for Thought

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God." Romans 8:14

"You in Your mercy have led forth The people whom You have redeemed; You have guided them in Your strength To Your holy habitation." Exodus 15:13

Day Nineteen

Am I Not Worthy of Continual Worship?

Can you learn to thank Me for everything? I have called you out of darkness to experience the light. I have tremendous plans for you, and I intend to build you in My love. Yet I allow many trials to happen in order to grow you and stretch your faith. How can gold be proven valuable unless it is tested?

Beloved, do not hate My tests, but accept them wholeheartedly. I have determined to bless you greater than the trial you may suffer. Not every trial have I desired for you. Not every hardship have I created. I create that which stretches you for growth. But there are deep hardships that are not given by My hand. Nor were they in My desire for you. Nevertheless, I have allowed them and will comfort you in the midst of them. I will be a shield to you and establish a new blessing for you once again. I am able to create good from evil. Consider the heart of man! For out of the wicked, I have brought forth repentance and life.

Consider Job's life. Who destroyed him? Was it My hand or was it Satan who pressed Me for an opportunity? It was My enemy, no doubt. And you have seen the blessing I gave Job afterward. You have seen the end I had desired for Him. Indeed, I am very compassionate and full of mercy.

But Job, in the midst of his pain, praised Me. Can you do this? Can you thank Me for hardship? The hardship I do lay on a man's shoulders is for eternal life. Now, having this wisdom, can you thank Me through your trials? Can you thank Me for them? When deep trials abound, can you still worship Me? I have only ever sought to bless you. Never has My heart been set on your destruction. So set your face to worship Me. Am I not worthy?

Scripture for Thought

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." Colossians 3:16

"And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ..." Ephesians 5:18–20

Day Twenty

Have Faith in My Faithfulness

How have I ever failed you? Haven't I always been faithful? I do not call you to have faith in an unknown attribute of Mine. Rather, I call you to have faith in My faithfulness. Trust in My trustworthiness. Because I am faithful, you can have faith in Me and be justified by it.

Now I call you to be like Me. Render yourself to Me and become as I am. Be faithful toward Me. Seek Me as you ought and portray My heart to all. Let your conduct be with faithfulness. Glorify My holy name, and I will be with you in all you do, to strengthen you and overcome every obstacle that you face.

Even in the darkest of times, I am with you. Even when you can't see Me, I am carrying you. If you cannot walk, I will walk for you. If you cannot stand, I will stand for you. Simply have faith in My faithfulness. I will love you, and will love upon you, with My righteous right hand. I will be your strength in your weakness. I will cover over you and save you from every form of evil that comes your way.

Remember to be the image of My love. If you truly love Me, then go forward and bless the broken, uphold the weak, and let your heart be stirred to compassion as Mine is for you. Look for the hurting, even among your brethren, and comfort them in My love. Be faithful to be My tool, and I will most certainly use you for My glory.

Scripture for Thought

"With the pure You will show Yourself pure; and with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd." Psalm 18:26

"O Lord God of hosts, who is mighty like You, O Lord? Your faithfulness also surrounds You." Psalm 89:8

Day Twenty-One

Study My Word

Open My word today. Seek Me in the authority of My Scripture, which I have spoken long ago. For I am the same today as I was yesterday and will be forever. Every word of Mine is established in truth and is profitable for your salvation. Let My word be a lamp to your feet. There is no substitute for the Bible. Take it to heart and read it.

Faithfully and diligently seek Me in the Scripture today. Do not merely read it, but focus on My Spirit as you read. I will interpret the meaning of My Holy Scripture to you. I will make you understand My deep wisdom. Only remain faithful to pursue it, and you shall find it.

Draw near to Me in My word, and you will understand My voice with greater clarity. If you listen to Me while you read, it will become easier to discern My voice in other areas of your life. As you begin to understand My voice, you will learn My wisdom laid out in the Scriptures.

Scripture for Thought

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

Day Twenty-Two

Continue in My Word

Seek Me again today in My word. Be diligent to find Me there always. I am waiting for you in the pages, and My Spirit will speak through them. Anytime the word jumps out at you, it is My Spirit speaking to you. Take note of those things, for they are, or will, be useful to you for growth.

Surrender your time and have a true devotion. If I am speaking in the word to you, do not put the Bible down until I have finished. How would you like it if I walked away during one of your intimate prayers? Wouldn't your heart shatter? Far be it from Me to do this, but there are times you have walked away from Me while I've poured out My heart.

Do you love Me? Then be fed by My word and grow thereby. When you are grown in the wisdom and discernment of My Scripture and Holy Spirit, then go and feed My lambs. Feed them with the milk of My word and the honey of My Spirit.

Bless them with truth as I bless you. Do not open your mouth to teach unless I have opened it to speak. How else shall your words be perfectly seasoned with salt and truth? Remember, I said that the mouth speaks from the abundance of the heart. Even so, I command you today to fill your heart with Me, that your mouth may be full of My glory and truth.

Scripture for Thought

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples." John 15:7–8

"Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say." Exodus 4:12

"Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious." 1 Peter 2:1–3

Day Twenty-Three

Pursue My Wisdom

When you read My word, meditate on the part you hear My Spirit speaking to you. Memorize these scriptures in their entirety. How can you practice My word from your heart unless it is locked in your heart?

But My Beloved, have faith in Me. When you memorize, do not try to do so through the ability that you supply. Remember that I will help you in all things to obtain and practice righteousness. Even so, I will expand your mind to retain My word in ways you never thought possible. Open your heart to Me and believe. My Holy Spirit will lock My Scripture in your heart as you memorize by faith.

Pray before you begin your efforts, and ask Me for help. Have you ever considered this? Ask Me to help you retain the scriptures, and I will do it. Even if the scriptures amount to a whole book, I can lock them in your memory in a day. Is this impossible for Me? It may be so for you, but not for My Spirit. Have faith in Me as you memorize My word, and I will help you.

Then, when My Scripture is locked in your heart, My Spirit will speak from your heart to remind you of My word and teach you when and how you should apply it in your life. So sensitize yourself to My voice. Become familiar with My whispers, and I will reveal My deep wisdom to you. Be firmly planted in My Spirit and in My word. Remember the seeds that were scattered on the loose stone in My parable? How did they wither? Their roots lacked depth in My word and truth. So be passionate for My truth and continue to seek Me in My Bible daily.

Scripture for Thought

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways." James 1:5–8

Day Twenty-Four

You Are Precious to Me

Your tears are My treasure. I keep them hidden in My bottle and count each of them. I will comfort you and turn your hurt into healing. Your mourning shall be overtaken by the overflow of My joy.

I'm here for you in everything. I will hold you until I make everything better. You'll see! Just watch My mighty hand work, and I will bring everything in your life together for good. Wait and see.

Then, when you have seen My faithfulness, hold it in your heart. During your next trial, cling to the hope I have given you previously. Remember how I saved you, and meditate on this to increase your faith. Even if your circumstances tell you that nothing good can develop from them, I shall save you and bless you according to My love.

Scripture for Thought

"You number my wanderings; put my tears into Your bottle; are they not in Your book?" Psalm 56:8

"Make me understand the way of Your precepts; so shall I meditate on Your wonderful works." Psalm 119:27

Day Twenty-Five

Rely on My Power

Set your gaze toward heaven and your eyes upon Me. Consider all that I am and have done. Lift up your face and see the starry night. I called forth the light and set it apart from the darkness. I have given the light a home, and it abides with Me. For I am the dwelling place of light. Abide therefore, My Beloved, in My light. Keep your gaze steadily fixed upon My presence, and where I am, there you shall be also.

If you keep your focus on Me and seek My glory, there shall be nothing too difficult for you. By My power and My love, you shall conquer all things. I will cast aside mountains and overthrow the armies of darkness. By My hand, you shall become very strong. I will do all these things, and more, for you. Keep your gaze upon Me, and when the darkness of death overshadows you, I shall make you arise in the newness of life.

Pay thoughtful heed to My words. Carry them in your heart and walk by them. Listen to My voice, and My Spirit will be an eye to you. Daily He shall lead you in the path of victory. Though trials may overtake you and pain may surround you, still you are alive in Me because My Spirit is working the power of life within you. Seek refuge in Me and find your comfort in My embrace. Though life may be harsh, and the daily grind may distract you from Me, set your heart to pray to Me continually, and I will strengthen you to keep your prayers flowing. Do not let the devil disrupt the continuity of our communication. Keep your prayers continuous, with an undying love for Me.

Then, as you pray, My strength shall Me with you. Though you toil in the midst of your work, I shall be a source of strength to you. Your Spirit shall be refreshed in My Spirit, though men of the world may be used to drag you down. Take refuge in Me, Beloved, and hide from the arrows and darts of the enemy. Though they may fling their missiles at you, recoil back into the places of your heart where I am and meditate on Me in your thoughts.

But do not merely think of Me, for I am standing next to you. To dwell upon Me is to meditate upon My presence. So pray and worship with an undying love, and I will refresh you even when darkness surrounds.

Scripture for Thought

"So Jesus said to them, 'Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20

Day Twenty-Six

Humbly Submit

What are you, and what do you have, that could compare to Me? Consider the night sky and see the stars. You cannot count them, but I know them all by name. Do you see the grains of sand on the beach? How many are there? Tell Me if you know this. But all these things I know, and not an ounce of knowledge is lost before Me.

I raised up the mountains and lowered the valleys. I called forth life in this world and created every type of creature. Then I brought man forward and made him from dirt. I called him My own, and he became Mine.

Then the eyes of My heart fixed their gaze upon you. Generation upon generation had risen, and the kingdoms of men were a drop in a bucket before Me. However, as time passed, I prepared the way for you. I set apart the times, the seasons, and the boundaries of the nations, that I might determine your dwelling place. Then your mother and father came to life, and I remembered you, My Beloved. I grew your bones in your mother's womb and knit your sinews with the fabric of My love. By My power I created you, and through My strength I brought you forth in life. Now you are Mine, and I call you My child.

Be near to Me today and come forward with trembling. For again, what are you, and what do you have, that can compare to Me? Humble yourself before Me, that I may operate through you. Your works cannot compare to Mine, and there is nothing you can do that pleases Me except to surrender humbly and submit willingly.

Obey My voice when you hear it. In My power and by My wisdom I lead you. My love goes before you, and through the power of My love, I craft your future. Have I not said that from the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks? Even so, My mouth speaks through the abundance of My love. Not a word of Mine is with vanity. In writing your life, not a single stroke of My pen has been foolish. So obey My voice and humbly submit.

Surrender to the purpose of My will, and I will grant you a future beyond your reckoning. I do all things through love, and you are My child. I will produce a future and a hope, and you shall experience the fullness of these when I call you home to be by My side.

Scripture for Thought

"Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, or as His counselor has taught Him? With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, and taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, and showed Him the way of understanding? Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust on the scales; look, He lifts up the isles as a very little thing. And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor its beasts sufficient for a burnt offering. All nations before Him are as nothing, and they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless." Isaiah 40:13–17

"And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us..." Acts 17:26–27

"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:6–7

Twenty-Seven

Find Me in the Solitary

I am waiting for you, secretly and quietly. I eagerly anticipate your arrival. I have hidden away like a lover waiting to meet his longed-for bride to be. Come away from the distractions of this life and hide with Me. Let Me take you by the hand and guide you to the secret place. There we will share our love.

Let Me embrace you and captivate you in My Spirit. Be caught up in Me as you pray. Seek Me in the depths of My words and plunge the exceedingly deep wisdom of My Scripture. Be with Me; be alone with Me. Let's be together away from the distractions as I minister to your heart. Meditate upon Me and be faithful to do this daily. Be recharged in My Spirit and keep this intimacy when you step out of our secret place. Carry the messages with you and continue to keep your eyes fixed on Me.

The purpose of My secret place isn't to be recharged and then forget Me when you go about your day. Rather, it is to strengthen you so that you can continue to abide in, and meditate upon, My Spirit's presence and voice. The activities of the day will drag you down and seek to distract you from My presence. But keep your mind's eye steadily fixed upon Me, and I will give you strength to continue to walk in Me. If the day makes you weary and it is hard to abide, seek another hiding place and pursue Me in secret as a lover and bride. I will recharge you there so that you can continue in Me. When you leave the secret place, keep your eyes fixed on My presence and majesty. My Spirit will guide you if you listen to His voice. But if you become distracted, you'll be lost in all the noise.

Tame your flesh and stay your mind. Reflect on My presence through worship and prayer. Do these things throughout the day, as you go about your day, and not merely in secret. When you hide away, seek Me in My word. Open the pages and be transformed by My truths.

Seek the Lord today as the Holy Spirit leads you. Read your Bible and be dedicated to knowing Him better through the pages. Then, as you go about your day, continue in the Spirit and continue to walk in Him through paying constant attention to His voice and presence. This is done best through keeping the line of communication open by continual prayer and worship throughout the day.

Scripture for Thought

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

"Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving..." Colossians 4:2

Day Twenty-Eight

Surrender to My Will

Render your plans to Me. Are not Mine greater than yours? Let Me guide you down the path I have chosen for you. I am the maker of all things, including your future. I have a plan for you, My child, and I intend for you to walk in it. Seek My plan and the measure of My will. I will communicate My heart to you if you ask Me to do so. But if you are accustomed to following your own will, My voice may be hard to discern.

I call you, therefore, to fast—not a fasting from food but a continual fasting from your self-will. Let go of your plans and lay them at My feet. Some of them I have laid on your heart to fulfill My will, and some your own heart has created. Do not augment My plans, for you do not know what I am doing. My plans are perfect and have no need of your input. Surrender to My will, and you will find that sometimes the issues of your heart are already wrapped up in Mine.

Scripture for Thought

"A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps." Proverbs 16:9

"There are many plans in a man's heart, nevertheless the Lord's counsel—that will stand." Proverbs 19:21

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5–6

Day Twenty-Nine

Let Your Fears Be Dissolved by the Waves of My Peace

Give Me your mind, My child, and I will keep it with tranquility. Though trials may arise, My Spirit will cover you and keep you at peace. Render your thoughts to Me as well, and do not have an anxious mind. I will take care of you as I have promised. Only believe that I do all things out of love, and the eyes of your faith will see My provision even before it is visible on the horizon. I will come to you and deliver you and will nourish your need for Me.

I have not promised that you will not have trials. But I have promised that I will carry you through them and will provide for you in them. Therefore, be strengthened through faith. Is not faith produced when I speak? If I have said I will save you and provide for you, then believe Me.

Open your eyes and perceive. I may already have a door open for you to walk through to be delivered. But pray before you walk through any door. Some have been set before you by My enemy as traps. They are meant to ensnare you through your self-will. But if you keep your heart at peace and allow Me to give you a tranquil mind, I shall guide you in My perfect timing. Wait for My proper door to open and do not fret as you jump through.

Recognize your worries, and release them to Me. If you do not, they may guide your heart without you realizing it. If you are led by fear, you are not led by faith. If you are not led by faith, then you are not led by Me. Do not let fear make you jump outside My will. Faith comes when I speak.

If you leap without My word, then it is not a leap of faith but a leap off a cliff. You will find yourself broken at the bottom and in a much worse circumstance than had you waited. I would beg you, My Beloved: Do not do this to yourself! This is self-imposed suffering that My heart never wanted. You brought it upon yourself by resisting My will and paving your own path through fear.

Be diligent to wait for Me, even when it is difficult, and My hand shall save you. You have My promise, and am I not faithful? Put your faith in My faithfulness and let your fears be dissolved in the waves of My peace.

Scripture for Thought

"Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord!" Psalm 27:14

"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31

Day Thirty

Sense the Urgency to Do Good

Overcome My enemy. Frustrate his anticipated victories by keeping a steadfast heart with prayers of faith. Yet do not expect Me to overcome through mysterious power. I will not answer through hidden works as if by magic. I work with power through My Spirit, and My Spirit is within you. I will work in your heart and in your hands. My power is yours to tear down the strongholds of the devil through My gospel.

Preach to the unbeliever and be diligent to share My truth with him. Show him My love, even though he hates you. How do you know whether My love working through your hands will convict him? I promise it will convict his heart, but I cannot promise that he will accept your kindness and repent. Therefore, be kind to all, for a few will repent and many will hate you. Do not cease to love them still. Do they not hate Me? But from whom does their food come? Who sends the rain on their fields, that they may eat? Do not I, the Lord, do all these things and sustain the life of My enemy? Do I not gently nurture My vessels of wrath in My loving kindness? I could wish that they would cleanse themselves through Me and become vessels for honor. Yet even if they should not repent, My kindness justifies their judgment.

Do not seek the destruction of your enemy. Be swift to love and sluggish in wrath. Keep yourself with a patient and steady heart, that My love may overflow in you and work through you. Strive according to My working and have compassion on evil men.

But do not forsake My children in their time of need. Are they unworthy of your kindness? Yet, if you were hungry, would you feed yourself? If you had no home, would you give yourself one if it were in your power? How swiftly would you give your child a roof over his or her head? If it were in your power, I tell you the truth, you would do it immediately!

Therefore, love with immediate love. Sense the urgency to do good in the immediate. Fill the need and cherish your brethren. If you walk in love, then assuredly, I say to you that you walk in Me. If you truly walk in My Spirit, you will walk in My love, for love is the nature of My Spirit and the essence of who I am.

Scripture for Thought

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith." Galatians 6:9–10

"If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; For so you will heap coals of fire on his head, and the Lord will reward you." Proverbs 25:21–22

"By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him." 1 John 3:16–19

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Adam is a preacher, teacher, novelist and #1 internationally bestselling author of over 100 books on the Christian faith. With over 1½ million books in print his titles range from devotionals, prayer books, Christian inspiration, and Novels.

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